

**Response to Restriction Requirement**

Serial No. 09/783,876

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Group III - Claims 28-35, drawn to a storing and transport system.

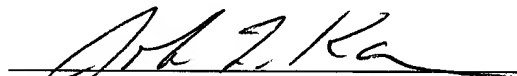
Group IV - Claims 36-39, drawn to process of making a composite.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-20 drawn to a micropore open cell foam composite for examination, with traverse.

Applicants submit that inventions 1 and 2 are related as product and process for making the product. The process claims of invention II depend from the product claims in invention I. Accordingly, applicants submit that the product and process claims of inventions I and II are not independent and distinct and, therefore, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn as to Claims 1-27. In the alternative, applicants request that when a product claim is found allowable, the corresponding process claims be rejoined.

In the event that the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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